Cash payment for girl education and health

†73. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme of cash payment for girl education and health is under consideration of Government;

(b) whether her Ministry is also contemplating to provide employment Jo the girls during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether Government are making "Palna Yojana" to stop foeticide; and

(d) if so, the steps to be taken by Government for ensuring proper upbringing of these children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The Working Group on "Development of Children" for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007—2012) has been constituted by the Planning Commission in April, 2006. This Working Group under the Chairperonship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development and other experts will review the existing approach and programmes for children and suggestsuitable initiatives and programmes for the survival, protection, welfare and dvelopment of children including the girl child. The deliberations of these Working Groups will serve as an input into the Steering Committee Report of the Planning Commission. The recommendations of the Steering Committee would form the basisjor the programmes and schemes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development in Eleventh Plan.

Malnourished children

74. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to UN Report, India accounts for 57 million of the world's 146 million malnourished children;

(b) if so, whether India, Nepal and Bangladesh have got highest malnourished children;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.